The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 24, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918

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WHOLE NO. 1912 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 48

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW EXPOSED!

By J. ALBERT WOLL and HERBERT S. THATCHER

(Members of the law firm of Padway, Woll, Thatcher, Glenn and Wixon, serving as general counsel for the American Federation of Labor)

This is the first of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mark Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—mused said:

AFL President William Green requested the Post to grant him the opportunity of replying to the article. The Post refused, and instead ran one by Hobbs, the editor, who frankly admitted that his magazine was one-sided on the question of the Taft-Hartley law.

At the outset and before undertaking a refutation of the specific points made in the Post article, it will be helpful to set forth, in broad outline form, labor's basic objections to the Taft-Hartley Act. The arguments in support of these objections will appear in the course of refuting Mr. Swigert's contentions, and thus a more effective approach to the point at issue—what does the Taft-Hartley Act really do—will result.

The favorite device of those who attempt apologies for the act (including the writer of the Post article) is to tell only part of the story, to pick out and play up certain provisions to which no particular exception can be made (and to which labor has taken no exception), and to overlook the one claimed beneficial result of a provision to which labor does object without indicating the other very harmful results of the provision. Such an effort to weigh any possible good the provision might appear to accomplish.

Labor objects to the Taft-Hartley Act for reasons which go to the fundamental principles of labor and economic philosophy. The act goes far beyond the correction of any abuses, real or imaginary; it constitutes a complete reversal of national labor and economic policy. Its operation necessarily will have adverse effects upon our entire industrial economy and will seriously impair the operation of our free enterprise system.

The act reverses national and economic policy in the following respects:

1. It seeks to discourage rather than to encourage collective bargaining by employes in free trade unions and to drive a wedge between the worker and organizations formed by workers for their mutual aid and protection.

2. It seeks to discourage rather than to encourage the practice of free collective bargaining between parties possessing equality of bargaining power.

3. It foregoes and repudiates reliance on a free trade union as the primary means, through free collective bargaining, not only of settling labor-management disputes but of insuring a sufficiently high wage income to supply the purchasing power necessary for the successful functioning of our greatly productive economy. Instead, it substitutes government as the dominant force and thus substitute either management dictation or government regulation of the fundamental terms of labor-management relations in our entire free enterprise economy.

The national and economic policy which has been repudiated by the Taft-Hartley Act was set forth in part in the Norris-LaGuardia Act protecting labor against the abuses of the labor injunction and more completely in the Wagner Act of 1935. Under these acts it was declared to be the national policy to rely primarily on the processes of collective bargaining and governmental dictation both to settle labor-management difficulties and to maintain a high level of purchasing power. This national policy was sound and consistent not only with the private enterprise system in a free society but also consistent with the new universally accepted principle that the maintenance of a wage level sufficiently high to enable the consuming public to purchase the products of our extremely productive capitalist system is indispensable to the successful functioning of that system. Only by the exercise of effective collective bargaining between workers and management could not exist without an equality of bargaining power between the parties, with a corresponding duty to bargain in good faith—conditions which did not wholly exist, particularly in the mass production industries prior to 1935. Accordingly, the framers of the original Wagner Act sought to encourage the formation of a strong trade union movement by encouraging the practice of collective bargaining unionization. In addition, a duty was imposed upon employers to bargain in good faith once organization of a majority of employes in a particular bargaining unit had been achieved. Thus, the Wagner Act, as originally conceived, was reasonably one-sided in the sense that it afforded protection against employers only. Obviously, employers, and particularly employers in the mass production industries with their unorganized status and vast resources, needed no safeguards to maintain their bargaining power on the one hand, and on the other hand were almost universally guilty of interfering with the organizational rights of their individual employes who could not hope to negotiate on their own.

Higher Wages Buying Less; Consumer Rooking Goes On

Washington, D. C.—Although the $50.97 average weekly earnings of factory workers during October was slightly higher than the September record, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the increase measured over a year ago was more than offset by soaring prices.

Thus, the 11 percent gain in average hourly rates and average weekly wages scored since October 1945 has meant nothing to the nation's 13 million production workers. They have watched their weekly earnings measured in terms of what they will buy shrink week by week until now they and their families are worse off than a year ago.

This fact is especially significant in view of the BLS report showing that the average workweek was the same for the two periods chosen for comparison. It points up graphically that an American worker putting in as many hours per week in October 1947 as he did in October 1946 and actually receiving more dollars per week is worse off in terms of what that weekly wage will purchase.

On top of all this, productivity has increased. Workers are turning out more goods and services in the same number of hours than they did a year ago. In return for the increased productivity, the employer gets a profit. The critics of labor is the only basis for wage increases, workers have slipped further down the economic scale. They have had to tighten their belts, reduce their standard of living, and draw upon past savings in desperate attempts to keep up with the rising cost of living. They have been forced to make these adjustments and sacrifices in return for their efforts in boosting the nation's production to record levels.

And what have they seen during this past year of struggle to make ends meet? They have seen numerous reports from reputable business concerns telling of the fabulous profits realized by industry, profits running in some cases better than 100 percent over a year ago. They have read estimates of the enormous profits which the nation's farmers are piling up. They have read statements from prominent workers implying that labor is to blame for everything. They heard Senator Taft denounce the President for daring to recommend that the Government of the United States take strong action to curb the ever increasing danger of inflation.

It looks as if the employers and consumers have been rooked royally during the past year. What is worse is the fact that all indications point to a greater rooking for them in the days ahead. Profits are still mounting and wholesale prices, as reported by BLS, stood at a new high for this year straight through. These prices will be translated into higher retail prices in the weeks to come, throwing an even greater burden upon the nation's working force.

Voluntary Wage Control Held Possible If Inflation Is Curbed

AFL's Federation of Post Office Clerks Urges Congress to Grant $1,000 Pay Boost

Chicago.—The AFL's National Federation of Post Office Clerks called upon Congress to enact legislation granting a permanent $1,000 a year salary increase to all post office clerks.

This action was taken at a special legislative conference here attended by 300 delegates from 43 states and representing 70,000 of the nation's 100,000 post office clerks. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Leo E. George, president of the federation, introduced the resolution. In support of the measure he declared that morale in the postoffice department is at a low ebb because the starting salary of $2,100 for clerks is insufficient to meet the cost of living. The delegates in session here, Mr. George said the low salary scales force many of them to take outside jobs in order to make ends meet in these days of soaring prices.

In addition to the pay raise measure, the conference voted to endorse the Goal of Representative Clyde Doyle to allow veterans credit for the years they served in the armed forces in computing their salaries provided the veterans joined the postal service.

Also adopted was a resolution endorsing a proposal of Representative William H. Stevenson, Republican, of Wisconsin, increasing annuity benefits at retirement. The plan, which has been passed by the House and has received Senate committee approval, would increase annuity payments up to 6 percent from the present 5 percent.

Denham Cracks Down on Unions Again; Rejects 30% of Affidavits Filed to Date

Washington, D. C.—Robert N. Denham, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, has issued a formidable fault with the affidavits filed to date by officials of the Taft-Hartley law.

He declared he has rejected nearly 30 percent of the union financial and non-Communist affidavits filed to date because "they have been incorrectly executed."

Unions affected will be denied the use of the NLRB facilities in holding elections and processing unfair labor practice charges against employers until file corrected forms, Denham indicated.

The most common error, Denham reported, is the failure of local unions to furnish their membership with the financial data as filed with and required to file with the Secretary of Labor.

"The most common mistake is for union leaders simply to post a copy of the union's financial report on the bulletin board, or to announce that the books are open for anyone who wants to look at them," he said.

"This is not sufficient. Unions must endeavor to distribute copies of the required data to all their members."

Evidently Mr. Denham intends to go out of his way to force unions to spend money for the sake of getting financial reports for distribution to each and every member. This is apparently is ignoring the common practice followed by larger AFL unions of printing their financial reports in the official magazine or other type of union publication which go regularly to their members.

His action must be taken as additional evidence that the administration is to crack down on unions whenever an opportunity presents itself.

Denham said local unions also are failing to file non-Communist affidavits for each of their officers. He reported, however, that so far 1,434 local and 125 international unions have completed the filing of these affidavits. They include 1,434 AFL, 106 CIO and 634 independent local unions and 79 AFL, 20 CIO and 35 independent international unions.

Woll Says Proposals of Tax Committee Would Mean Loss of $4½ Billion Yearly

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, AFL Executive Council member who appeared before the Ways and Means committee appointed by Representative Knutson, declared that adoption of the recent recommendations of the majority of the committee would result in a revenue loss of approximately $4½ billion yearly.

Early in November when Woll, the labor representative on the Special Tax Study Committee, filed a minority report in which he took issue with the majority recommendations, he stated that he was reserving the right to file such statements as he might consider warranted by further study of the majority statement presented by Roswell Magill. "There was little time available to study the committee deliberations to the probable revenue loss that might result from the adoption of the 46 recommendations contained in the majority report," he stated Mr. Woll. "When I tried to secure information on this point from technical advisers of the Ways and Means committee, I found that it was not available. Through studies we have made independently, the estimates of these losses now included in the supplementary report have been greatly reduced by the favorable computations based on current revenue and profit figures."

Mr. Woll emphasized that the $4.5 billion estimated loss in revenue would be over and above any across the board tax cuts or the proposals such as that advocated by Representative Knutson. "The total of $8 billion to $8.5 billion proposed as tax reduction by Representative Knutson and the majority of the tax study committee would result in a tremendous loss of revenue," Woll declared Mr. Woll. "Yet, if and when such reductions are made, the Treasury would still be paying heavy income taxes."

Mr. Woll concluded that excise taxes are contributing materially to inflationary price increases. He referred to the Department of Commerce transportation and communication, electrical, gas, water, and miscellaneous goods, and other articles as "discriminatory taxes." They linger on business, and capricious in their effect on consumers."

Housing Officials Support T-E-W Bill

New York City.—The National Association of Housing Representatives meeting here adopted a resolution supporting the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill as part of a program designed to boost production of homes.

The resolution calls for vigorous action to provide for the construction of dwellings at the rate of 1,500,000 per year for next 15 years, nearly double the present rate.

Senator Robert F. Wagner, prevented from attending the session by illness, was hailed by the group with the presentation of scroll testifying to his "untiring efforts" for the betterment of housing conditions. The presentation marked the 10th anniversary of the United States Housing Act of 1937, adoption of which was due largely to the support given by Senator Wagner.

30,800 HANDICAPPED GOT JOBS IN OCTOBER

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach reported that 30,800 physically handicapped workers got jobs through the United States Employment Service during October, a peacetime record.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the service, said that three-fifths of the placements were veterans and ex-servicemen. He said that for the first time the total number of unemployed disabled veterans registered at public employment offices fell below 10,000. October placements cut the disabled veteran registration to 92,000.

HOME BUILDING LOANS AT RECORD $444 MILLION

Washington, D. C.—Construction loans granted to home builders by the 1,727 Federal Savings and Loan Associations increased 41 percent in the 12 months ended September 30 over the comparable period a year earlier, Harold Lee, governor of the Federal Home Bank Loan System, reported.

He said the large increase was spurred by veterans taking advantage of the GI Bill of Rights.

The $444,000,000 borrowed from the associations in the 12 months established a record for the federal-chartered institutions. Mr. Lee said state-chartered building and loan companies had reported the same trend.

Arbitrator Upholds Seniority Principle

Philadelphia.—In one of the most important rulings in the history of the union, an arbitrator upsold the seniority principle in a 3,200 food workers enrolled in Local 196, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL.

The decision, formalizing what the union declared had long been industry practice, followed dismissal of a dispute involving the Harshell Beef Boning Company and the union.

The case came before Cooper following dismissal of Howard Evans by Meyer allegedly for "slack business." The union contended the dismissal violated the unwritten law of the industry governing the seniority of union representatives.

The arbitrator ordered Meyer reinstate Evans with back pay.

U. S. LABOR LEADERS STUDYING AT HARVARD

Cambridge, Mass.—Harvard University announced that 8 U. S. labor leaders, including trainees and boilermakers, are studying at the university this year.

The union men, designated as "labor fellows" by the university, are Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL.

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296,000 Workers Covered By Four New Minimum Wage Orders In N. Y. State

Albany, N. Y.—Over 296,000 employes in 4 industries in New York State are affected by new minimum wage orders which are now in effect, the Department of Labor announced "active enforcement" of the provisions of the orders.

The orders in the hotel, restaurant, cleaning and dying, and confectionery industries were drawn up six months ago but the law provides for a long period between the time of promulgation and effective date.

Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi said employers failing to comply with the orders would be cited by the department for recovery of underpayments, as well as suits by employes.

New hourly minimums up to 51 cents for workers in year-around hotels are provided in the hotel order, which covers 91,000 workers. A week's vacation with pay of $22 was set for resort establishments.

The restaurant order, covering 176,500 workers, provides minimum wage rates ranging to 52 cents, with variations according to size of city and communities.

The cleaning and dyeing order established a 57½-cent-an-hour minimum for 12,000 workers, with overtime and a half after 40 hours and double time after 48 hours. Cleaning and dyeing employes and 12,000 confectionery workers.

MASTERS, MATES AND PILOTS GET NEW WEST COAST PACT

San Francisco.—The AFL's West Coast Masters, Mates and Pilots have signed a new contract agreement with two shipping companies affecting some 600 employes serving on 20 tankers.

The agreement, which runs for one year, grants preference in employment to union members and increases wages from 8 to 10 percent. Under the new pact, the masters of the largest tankers will receive $656 monthly, first mates $430, second mates $372, and third mates $336.

The new contract is subject to ratification by the union membership. Approval of the U. S. Maritime Commission is also required since the company operates the tankers as agents for the commission.

NATHANIEL SPECTOR MARKS 35 YEARS OF UNION SERVICE

New York City.—Nathaniel Spector, manager of the New York joint board of the AFL's Millinery Workers Union, marked the completion of 35 years service as a union official.

Since he became an organizer for the union on December 3, 1912, Mr. Spector has seen its membership in this city grow from 120 to 12,000. Working hours have shrunk from 60 a week to 35 and weekly earnings have gone up 200 to 300 percent.

A stabilization plan devised by the union and the employers association with assistance of the late Mayor Fiorello La Guardia has resulted in the growth of the industry's annual production from $17,000,000 in 1936 to a current level of $200,000,000.

WAR VETERANS BUYING 48,000 HOMES A MONTH

Washington, D. C.—War veterans are buying 22,000 new homes a month with Government-guaranteed loans at 4 percent interest for a total of $2,200 per house, the Veterans Administration said. Other veterans who can't afford or can't find new houses are taking over the G. I. Marginal home and purchasing previously occupied dwellings at the rate of 26,000 a month—at an average price of $6,675.

By the end of October, VA-guaranteed loans exceeded 971,000 for the construction of new homes and totaled $6,510,000,000. The first GI loan was made in July, 1944.

ITU GETS KANSAS CITY RISE

Kansas City.—International Typographical Union Local 80, AFL, approved a wage increase of $2.28 a week and a 10 percent differential for night work, effective only in Kansas City's union job-printing shops. The rate for 37½ hours will be $78.28 for day work and $87.21 for night work, a union spokesman said. No contract was signed.

AFL Unions Control Head Jobs in Labor Division of ECA

Washington, D. C.—Labor's influence in the European Recovery Program is evidenced by the fact that AFL unions control the top jobs in the labor division of the Economic Cooperation Administration, it was pointed out here.

Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, is assistant director of the labor division. Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, is director of the division.

Other labor men in the division are Irving Brown, AFL representative in Paris, and Irving Brant, former editor of the St. Louis Star-Times.

Union Takes Wage Cut to Aid 15 Firms

St. Louis.—A volunteer wage cut of 10 cents an hour for electrical fixture assemblers employed in St. Louis has been accepted by the firms to an equitable competitive position, it was announced by Local 649, AFL.

The wage reductions affected 600 workers. The lengthy CIO shipyard strike, affecting 10,000 employes of East Coast plants since late June, continued as a full day or night page during the month.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service terminated 83 stoppages in October, leaving 21,500 workers involved at the end of the month. Terminations exceeded new stoppages by 11. Of the 83 terminations, involving 184,000 workers, 80 were stoppages of short duration.

All known work stoppages, arising out of labor-management disputes, involving six or more workers and continuing for one day or a full day or more during the month.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service terminated 83 stoppages in October. In addition, the service settled 261 controversies without formal strikes, involving 184,000 workers, before work stoppages occurred.

Preliminary estimates indicate that 2,000,000 workers were idled by labor disputes during October, involving six or more workers and continuing for one day or a full shift are included in reports of the Department of Labor. Figures on "man-days idle" and "workers involved" cover all workers made idle in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure indirect or secondary effects on other establishments whose workers or employes are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Refugee Agency Resettles 56,625

Geneva, Switzerland.—The Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization announced that 56,625 displaced persons had been resettled in their countries of origin or in new homes under the commission's auspices during its first three months of operations.

About three fifths of these persons were settled in new homes and the remainder were repatriated. From July 1 to Oct. 1, 1947, the total number of persons under the care and maintenance from the Preparatory Commission rose from 623,400 to 656,831. The net decrease was less than the repatriation and resettlement because the commission took over responsibility for new groups of refugees, including more than 18,000 Jews in Italian camps.

In September, the United Kingdom received 3,084 displaced persons, Austria 3,032, France 3,645, Canada and the United States 1,709. The largest groups of refugees returning to their country of origin was 2,400 Poles, followed by 2,241 Ukrainians.

TEAMSTERS' STRIKE ENDS

Cincinnati.—Representatives of 2,000 striking truck drivers employed by intercity and cartage companies voted to accept a wage increase of 27 cents an hour, which they had previously rejected. George Starling, president of Teamsters' Local 100, said some intercity drivers returned to work after voting to accept the increase.

Voluntary Wage Control Held Possible If Inflation Is Curbed

Secretary of Labor Says Rigid Control Needed In Only Few Cases

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach declared that if action is taken to avoid the recurrence of the present high price spirals, wage costs can be kept in line through "voluntary action."

Secretary Schwellenbach expressed this point of view in testimony before the House Committee on Banking and Currency on that part of President Truman's anti-inflation program dealing with proposed control of prices and wages in selective areas of the nation's economy.

AFL President William Green voiced similar views in a recent radio broadcast discussing the Truman President's program. He declared that the only way to avoid runaway inflation was if the cost of living is kept in check as suggested a trial period prior to enactment by the Government of stringent control over wages.

In discussing the controversial issue, Mr. Schwellenbach declared:

"It is my belief that the stabilization of our economy is of such a way as to avoid further price spirals, as an alternative to the use of direct wage controls, can be achieved through voluntary action. I believe that the anti-inflation program are carried forward. Even if it is decided that the control of certain industrial products, directly or indirectly through subsidies, I am of the belief that it may well be possible to achieve the necessary action, assuming that the cost of living is held in check and wage costs are kept in line with the controlled prices of the basic industries' lines. This will require constant alert and watching of the entire wage picture, both in the industries and in the economy as a whole, by the key industries where nationwide wage movements originate.

To accomplish this purpose Secretary Schwellenbach recommended the establishment in the Department of Labor of a policy board to "watch and report on the course of companion wage movements."

"This board might be composed of Government officials, of public members, or might well be tripartite and include representatives of labor, management, and the public. Such a board would also be of direct use to management and labor who are trying, on a voluntary basis, to maintain price-wage stability."

Much of Mr. Schwellenbach's testimony was devoted to the justification of the President's request for authority to invoke direct wage controls where necessary to control the price spiral. Specifically, he declared:

"There may be a handful of critical situations within the price-control industries where the application of wage will become crucial factors that cannot be dealt with by voluntary means. It is for this reason that the President has proposed authority to impose such wage ceilings as are necessary to prevent unnecessary price ceilings." This standard defines the area, before work stoppages threaten, and at the outset restricts their application to a very small segment of the economy.

"In view of the highly selective nature of the price controls proposed, and the fact that many of them will be applied directly to basic industries, it is likely that the need for wage controls will be limited to a very few cases. Before compulsory authority is invoked, voluntary efforts should be made to exhaust voluntary means.

"Even where wage controls have to be used as a supplement to price controls, this would not necessarily mean a wage freeze. There ought to be room for adjustment of inequities in the relationship between the wage and price levels. Any action that is likely to be taken should be considered —in a few cases that can be envisaged at this time—would have to be taken on a case by case basis. For this reason it is not considered wise or possible to plan in detail the kind of administrative machinery that will be needed.

"It may be that the wage board will have to be established but a suitable body to entrust with the administration of any necessary controls. It may well be, however, that the few cases which will arise will be so unique that it will be best to handle them by the method such as the creation of individual wage boards or panels—bodies whose function it would be to achieve settlements or to make recommendations to them in these cases, voluntary action will play an important role. There may be also no request for authority to order compulsory arbitration in advance of labor-management agreement.

O'BRIEN, SHEET METAL WORKERS OFFICIAL, DIES

Washington, D. C.—William M. O'Brien, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's International Association of Sheet Metal Workers, died here after an illness of nearly three months. He was 63 years old.

Mr. O'Brien had a long and distinguished career of service with his union. In 1927 he was elected to the position of secretary-treasurer in which he served at the time of his death. Prior to that he was a member of the union's executive board from 1913 to 1927.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1947

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TAFT-HARTLEY LAW EXPOSED!

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This is the second of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mack Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said!

AFL President William Green requested the Post to grant him the opportunity of replying to the article but the request was curtly refused by Ben Hibbs, the editor, who frankly admitted that his magazine was one-sided on the question of the Taft-Hartley law.

We proceed now to an examination of the Post article entitled "The Taft-Hartley Law: Does it Really Hurt Labor?"

Mr. Swigert's article enumerates and elaborates upon, what he terms, "fourteen privileges which have descended upon the workingman without his knowledge, like a legacy to an unknowing heir." Each of these so-called "privileges" will be discussed and answered in turn, but, before doing so, it is necessary to dispose of the flat statement made at the beginning of the article that "Not a single word has been omitted from the 'rights-of-employees' section of the Wagner Act. The employer is still forbidden to 'interfere with, restrain or coerce employes in the exercise' of these rights. Every employer 'unfair labor practice' listed in the Wagner Act is still in effect."

A better example of the device of telling only half the truth would be difficult to find. While it is true that no words have been omitted from the original prohibitions against employer unfair practices, it is also true that many words have been added, with the net result that these protections have been considerably weakened in a number of important respects. Thus, the very important protections against interference and discrimination through discharges or demotion are greatly weakened by the new provision that "to consider employer antiunion statements (unless involving actual threats) as background evidence of discrimination will be to invite endless litigation." At the same time, the employer has been given a new privilege of free speech. Under the present act such groups apparently cannot be reached.

Finally, large groups of employes who formerly received the protection of the Wagner Act are no longer covered by the law. Thus, the entire category of so-called "supervisors," who, under the Wagner Act, numbered into and strawbosses to foremen, no longer find protection in their right to organize. The same is true of employes of agricultural employers, truckers, tractors," and the act changes the old exemption of agricultural employes so as to exclude additional classes of employes in agriculture who previously received the protections of the law.

From the foregoing brief comparisons, it is quite obvious that it is simply not true to say that employes have the same protection against unfair labor practices under the Taft-Hartley Act as they did under the Wagner Act. Thus the Post article starts off with a gross misrepresentation.

As before stated, the author of the Post article has enumerated fourteen so-called "privileges" which he claims have descended upon the workingman under the act. The specific provisions of the act which confer these alleged privileges will be discussed in the remaining portion of this article, and each so-called privilege will be enumerated under the title given it in the Post article.

Baruch Urges Compulsory Health Plan; Hits Doctors Seeking to Bar Progress

New York City.—Compulsory health insurance is the only method which promises success in the task of providing adequate medical care for the great mass of citizens of this country.

This was the view expressed by Bernard M. Baruch, well-known and respected philanthropist and advisor to the Government on many international problems, before a group of prominent doctors attending a meeting sponsored by the Medical Society of New York State.

Stating that he did not fear Government taking the legitimate part in medicine, any more than in education or housing," Mr. Baruch chided the doctors for their obstructionist attitude in fighting the expansion of medical care to all. He said:

"In the matter of adequate medical care, too many doctors have been fighting a rear-guard action for too long. I feel I must warn them. Doctors, time is running against them. The medical profession has justly earned great influence in the community. It can keep that hold only as it moves forward. It will lose that hold if it has nothing but objections to offer, if it has eyes only for what not to do."

Terming a healthy, educated citizenry as the "greatest asset of any nation," Mr. Baruch declared that voluntary plans for medical care are not good enough to achieve this goal. He declared:

"What troubles me most are the millions in the middle segment of society, which does not earn enough to pay for its medical needs.

"The American Medical Association has a plan for medical service, estimated in 139 that families earning $3,000 a year or more in the population, cannot afford the cost of adequate medical care. Some of these can afford voluntary insurance, although many have not enlisted their support. But what of the little fellow who cannot?

"Nothing has been suggested so far, which seems practicable, except some form of insurance covering these needs, to be financed by the Government, at least in part."

Mr. Baruch criticized the tactics of many doctors in attempting to portray the issue of medical care as a struggle between the whites. Objecting to this over-simplification, he said:

"All law imposes compulsion. A form of compulsory health insurance for those who cannot afford to pay for voluntary insurance can be developed adequately safeguards without involving what has been termed socialized medicine."

MOTOR VEHICLE OUTPUT AT YEAR'S PEAK IN OCTOBER

Detroit.—The automotive industry attained the highest production month of 1947 during October, with factory sales of 426,001 new motor vehicles were recorded, the Automobile Manufacturers Association announced.

The total included 315,009 passenger cars, 113,305 motor trucks—both monthly high points for the year—and 1667 motor coaches, the AMA report showed.

Best previous month of 1947 was April when factory sales totaled 422,209 vehicles, including 314,768 passenger cars and 106,984 trucks.

AFL BARTENDERS' UNION GAINS $5 PAY INCREASE

New York City.—Hugo Ernst, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders' International, announced that its Local 15 here gained a new favorable agreement with operators of nearly 800 bars.

Mr. Ernst said that the bartenders got the $5 increase they sought, bringing the minimum wage up to $60 a week and gained two additional holidays, giving them six annually. Other questions, such as reduction in working hours and employer contribution to a welfare fund were placed in the hands of a labor-management committee.

Meany Urges Enactment of Marshall Plan To Stem Russian Advance, Bring Peace

Washington, D. C.—George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, called upon Congress to swiftly enact the Marshall Plan for the recovery of Europe as a means of promoting world peace.

In a radio address over the nation-wide network of the Mutual Broadcasting System, Mr. Meany reiterated the position taken by the AFL convention which met last October in San Francisco.

Mr. Meany emphasized the need to preserve the democratic way of life in the nations of Western Europe and declared that our failure to render assistance in their hour of need will result in the expansion of Soviet Russia over all of Europe. He declared:

"Mr. Stalin, the Russian Hitler, and all his agents and henchmen are moving heaven and earth to block the Marshall Plan. And there is no mystery about their motives. They know that if France and Italy and the other nonCommunist countries fail to receive assistance, they will fall into the Russian basket. Nothing that Mr. Stalin and Molotov could do would more effectively than hunger and misery and economic chaos. Until aid from America comes in time to turn the tide, Communist columnists in these nations will continue to have things their own way.

"If we do nothing, if we make the tragic choice of saving some money now, we shall inevitably be forced to put its own salvation unaided by America, it is but a matter of time and a very great deal of time at that, before we will find ourselves face to face with the Atlantic shore.

"That neighbor will not be friendly to our way of life, will not have our interests at heart. Moreover, the fact that neighbor believe in our kind of civilization. If we permit the nations of Western Europe to fall, our new neighbor on the Atlantic will be Joseph Stalin's brutal, fascist dictatorship. Stalin will then be master of all Europe. The Communist philosophy will then be dominant in the world and we, here in America, would find ourselves in a most uncomfortable position.

"America would then be confronted with the choice of letting Stalin enslave us, or else refusing to bow and being forced to defend ourselves. In either case, the consequence of a refusal to put the Marshall Plan into effect could well be a war in which America would be practically alone.

The AFL leader asserted that the self-interest of every American worker is the basic reason for helping Europe to recover economically. Declaring that adoption of the Marshall Plan means additional sacrifices on the part of American workers, he said:

"It is far better, far wiser, far more practical, in our judgment, to make sacrifices now in Europe in order to avoid being compelled to make greater sacrifices at greater times and great tomorrow. That is just plain common sense."

Mr. Meany said that the cost of the Marshall Plan, estimated at about $17 billion, is not the problem. It is only about 5 percent of what this country spent to win the recent world war. Annual cost of the plan, he declared, is but 1½ percent of what we willingly spent in just 16 days of war. He referred to the unanimously approved resolution passed by the AFL convention:

"The cost to the American people of the Marshall Plan is negligible as the alternative of an unaided Europe falling under totalitarian domination, with the ultimate possibility of war."

N. Y. State Federation Seeks Raise In Workers' Benefits

Albany, N. Y.—The AFL's New York State Federation of Labor voted to seek increases in unemployment insurance benefits and workmen's compensation at the next session of the State Legislature.

The action was taken at the federation's annual legislative conference attended by some 200 delegates representing 1,500,000 AFL members in New York State.

A bill approved by the conference would raise workmen's compensation benefits for total disability from $12 to $28 a week to $20 to $35.

Another bill approved would raise the maximum unemployment insurance benefits from $25 a week to $27.

The conference also decided to support recommendations of the state unemployment insurance advisory council in expanding the list of groups for dependency allowances in addition to the proposed higher benefits.

While the advisory committee has not yet formulated its program, it was understood that it would recommend an allowance of $3 a week for the first dependent, an additional $2 a week for a second dependent and a further $2 for each dependent.

The two unemployment insurance bills would also increase disability benefits to $34 a week. The present maximum is $31 does not provide for dependency allowances.

The conference voted also to seek repeal of the Condon-Wadlin law, which forbids strikes by employes of public institutions. It provides for the automatic discharge of employes of any governmental agency who goes on strike or refuses to continue their employment in Government service.

Failure to get such repeal, the conference voted down a proposal to seek the enactment of a public employee machinery to handle employe complaints and wages, hours and working conditions. This had been urged as a substitute for taking the law out of the punitive provisions of the Condon-Wadlin law.

Grain Processors' Union Urges Milling Of Grain Prior to Export for Foreign Aid

Kansas City, Mo.—The AFL's American Federation of Grain Processors' Council urged that grain supplied by this country to the starving peoples of Europe be milled here and shipped abroad as finished products instead of being exported as raw grain.

A resolution to this effect was adopted by the union's 1947 convention of the organization held here and attended by delegates from locals representing over 30,000 members.

Milling of grain prior to export would accomplish two objectives, the resolution declared. It would maintain the high level of employment in this nation's mills and at the same time would provide a source of feed for livestock in the nations where there remains about 20 percent of total which is available for such use, union spokesmen maintained.

It is another cooperative action the delegates adopted a resolution condemning the Taft-Hartley law and urging its repeal by Congress.

The convention reelected S. P. Ming as president of the council and H. J. Schneider secretary-treasurer. All officers and the executive committee board were reelected.

The council was directed to enter into immediate negotiations with the nation's big milling companies for a new national agreement covering wages and hours.

Commenting upon the negotiations, Ming said the union would not permit itself to be used as a tool by employers, and removal of restrictions on the 40-hour week would be considered on a local basis, he declared.

Other officers, all reelected, are: selection of Peter Ryhka, a district director of the Grain Processors' Council, as councilman-at-large in the city of Buffalo. Ryhka directed the successful campaign for election to office on the unfairness of the Taft-Hartley law.

VETERANS COMPRISE 48% OF ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Security Agency reported that 48 percent of the students in the nation's colleges and universities are veterans of World War II.

The survey of enrollments in 1,753 institutions of higher education, the first complete nation-wide study made this fall, reveals an enrollment of 2,182,726 veterans. The total college enrollment is 4,535,000 men and women, and nonveterans is 2,352,226. Making up the veteran group are men 1,606,647 men and 24,091 women. The majority of the veterans are studying in the universities. One hundred twenty-nine such institutions have 614,859 of the nation's veteran group enrolled. Five hundred seventy-three colleges or arts and sciences enroll 235,252; veterans; 281 independent technical and professional schools, 116,401; 209 teachers colleges and normal schools, 62,354; 465 junior colleges, 82,853, and 106 Negro institutions, 26,936.

MINNESOTA ACTS TO AID DISPLACED PERSONS

Minneapolis, Minn.—Minnesota became the first state to take definite position on the resettlement of European displaced persons in the United States.

The Governors Committee on Resettlement of Displaced Persons, which was appointed by Gov. Luther W. Youngdahl, announced that a survey would start to determine how many displaced persons Minnesota can "justly and prosperously resettled" in Minnesota.

The commission will conduct its survey through ministers and priests, who will invite the public to list relatives in displaced persons' camps in Europe and give other pertinent information.

RADIO ARTISTS FORM LOCAL

El Paso, Tex.—George F. Webber, AFL organizer announced the formation here of a local union affiliated with the American Federation of Radio Artists.

AFL National Union Officials Meet To Plan Political League

Union of NLRB Employes Appeals to Board Over Tactics of 'Czar' Denham

Washington, D. C.— Employes of the National Labor Relations Board have joined with organized labor in objecting to the tactics used by Robert N. Denham, NLRB general counsel.

An independent union of NLRB employes appealed to the board over the head of Mr. Denham to bargain with it on the posting of job vacancies so that employes might bid for them in order.

Officers of the union charged that Denham refused to meet and confer with them regarding personnel matters. They said that the NLRB had withdraw from the general counsel the responsibility over personnel which the board granted him. The NLRB is considering the request.

Union spokesmen said Denham showed no inclination to cooperate in effecting an adjustment of their complaints. They quoted him as saying there was no place for agreements in the Federal service. On the subject of posting job vacancies, the union charged Denham said this was a sham and declared that if he could not find the most qualified person for a job, he would then post a notice and invite applicants. He refused to

Conference to Organize Campaign for Coming Political Battle

Washington, D. C.—The presidents of the 105 national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor met here to draft final organization plans for Labor's Educational and Political League."

The meeting, without precedent in AFL history, was the outgrowth of action taken by the recent AFL convention which directed the establishment of a political organization to participate in the coming crucial political battles of 1948.

Purpose of the new campaigning drive for the repeal of the obnoxious Taft-Hartley law, the convention decided to invade the political arena in force. Election of a Congress more responsive to labor's needs and to turn out of office all those who consistently voted in the sense of labor's workers.

With the mandate from the AFL convention, the union heads gathered for a two-day session to iron out the details of the league's organization and have the way clear for operation to achieve the following purposes:

1. To see that all union members go to the polls in 1948.

2. To make known to union members the meaning of the economic and political policies of the American Federation of Labor and the effect of the Taft-Hartley law upon union activities.

3. To bring about the defeat at the polls of labor's Congress and the various state legislatures.

Prior to the conference of national union presidents, the AFL Executive Council met in a day-long session at which time tentative plans were drawn up for presentation to the larger group. No information concerning the nature of the proposals was available at this early event to press.

It is expected that "Labor's Educational and Political League" will be organized on the national level with state and district branches to direct the program in the local and community areas. Several of the AFL's 105 affiliated unions have already set up machinery to carry on political campaigns in their areas and expect to cooperate with the national organization.

In addition to the organizational details to be completed, the meeting was expected to develop ways and means of financing the activities of the league and to establish a quota for its funds necessary to carry out its purposes.

The Executive Council discussed these matters in a general way at a meeting following the AFL convention, but nothing was announced in the way of a definite proposal.

Green and members of the council were of the opinion that regular funds of labor could be used without the meaning of the Taft-Hartley law's ban on the use of union treasuries to affect union activities.

The executive committee, at the meeting of the American Federation of Labor approve of this means of public education on matters of national and international unions, state federations of labor, city central bodies, local unions, union label departments and other agencies of labor to cooperate in coordinating their activities for the full period of everything that is union-made and members of the American Federation of Labor unions during that week; and is further resolved,

"Resolved, That the labor papers and labor radio broadcasts be fully operate and that the radio, as well as the printed press, be utilized for the purpose of publicizing this Union Label Week."

United Nations to Discuss AFL Plan for Probe of World Slave Labor Conditions

New York City.—An AFL proposal that the United Nations investigate world slave labor conditions will be discussed by the Economic and Social Council on February 6.

Matthew Woll, AFL Executive Council member and chairman of its international relations committee, announced the AFL request had been included on the agenda for the February session.

The request was based on a resolution adopted at the AFL convention in San Francisco in mid-October, which declared that forced labor had been used in occupied areas of Axis lands and was being used as a means of punishing political opponents and depriving them of basic human rights.

The AFL charged that forced labor operations to servitude as "callous and brutal" and declared that the convention of March 1930, and a deliberate violation of the Versailles treaty against forced labor." The American group added that the spread of slave labor represented "a dangerous threat to the working standards, hard-won gains and human rights of the free workers of all nations."

Mr. Woll, an official consultant to the International Social Council, made it clear that the proposal was directed against the Soviet and the nazi-satellites. He estimated that at least 10,000,000 political prisoners are being confined in concentration camps. The survival of such conditions was a nullification of the principles underlying the establishment of the United Nations, the AFL official contended.

As evidence that displaced persons and prisoners of war were being subjected to compulsory labor in the Soviet orbit, Mr. Woll made public a photostatic copy of a handbill that, he said, had been posted by the Czechoslovak government in the industrial district of Mar-brich Schonberg two months after V-E Day.

The leaflet, signed by a functionary of the "Office for Compulsory Labor," announced that "all subjects of German nationality, men over 10 and not over 60 years of age, or women living in their homes or in labor camps," were liable for compulsory labor. Working hours were to range from 12 to 18 hours a day, and "negligence" on the part of the work assignments was to be punished by withdrawal of ration cards or severe sentences.

"Sabotage at work, deserting or shirking work or resisting the guards will be most severely punished, in the grave cases even with the death penalty," the handbill proclaimed.

Mr. Woll expressed confidence that the United Nations would "promptly" would approve the proposal for a survey of slave labor, even though the Soviet Union opposed the move.

Green Urges All AFL Affiliated Unions To Aid Observance of Union Label Week

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged support for the activities of the Union Label Trades Department with special emphasis upon the observance of Union Label Week beginning May 10, 1948.

In a circular letter to all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Green urged that the week be given due observance and that every effort be made to further its success.

Mr. Green acted in response to a mandate from the recent AFL convention which requested all unions to urge manufacturers to use the union label on their products and demand that the union label always be given to promote the union label, its wisdom, and economic value.

The convention adopted a separate resolution on the subject of the designation of Union Label Week. It stressed the necessity of employing publicity to acquaint the public with

WHOLESALE PRICES HIT NEW POSTWAR HIGH LEVEL

Washington, D. C.—Wholesale prices as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics hit a new postwar high of 159.8 percent of the 1926 average during the week ending Nov. 29.

This was an advance of 0.4 percent above the preceding week and left the bureau's index only about 4 percent below the all-time peak of May 1920.

At 159.8, the index stood 14.9 percent above a year earlier and 41.8 percent above the last week of June 1946, when OPA controls were virtually scrapped.

It was 94.88 percent above the corresponding week in 1937 and 70.9 percent above December 1929.

HOD CARRIERS UNION AMENDS CONSTITUTION

Chicago.—Delegates to a special convention of the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union voted to amend the union's constitution to conform to the requirements of the Taft-Hartley law.

Joseph V. Moreschi, formerly of Chicago, who is president of the union, which has 400,000 members, told the delegates before the constitutional changes were voted that although its officers were opposed to the Taft-Hartley law in principle, "it nevertheless is the law of our land, and as Americans it is our duty to abide by the terms as long as it remains the law."

Green Urges Help For Farm Strikers

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed for financial assistance for the striking members of the Farm Labor Union, which is conducting a strike against the Ford Motor Co. farms in Robstown, Texas.

In a circular letter to all national and international unions, Mr. Green declared that the struggle of the farm has refused to recognize the union and to bargain collectively with them for increased wages and improved working conditions, he declared.

"Reports indicate the existence of a true spirit and morale among the strikers, but because the National Farm Labor Union, which is one of the newest international unions to be chartered by the American Federation of Labor, is not financially able to carry on the struggle successfully which the strikers need at the moment the full support of the American Federation of Labor, are appealing to the local unions and central bodies for the purpose of supplying food and clothing to the families of the strikers herein referred to.

"It is reported that this strike is effective. The workers need help and support, however, in order to win. Please make a generous contribution to these gallant strikers and help them to the extent of your financial ability.

"Send 'back financial contributions as you may find it possible to make to Mr. H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, 503 Beale Avenue, Memphis 1, Tenn.